MARVEL COMICS GROUP 12¢

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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

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NEVER HAS ANYONE FOUGHT SUCH MERCILESS FOES AS...

"THE ENFORCERS!"

IN THIS ISSUE:

LEARN WHY J. JONAH JAMESON REALLY HATES SPIDER-MAN!

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SPIDER-MAN

HOW CAN ONE LONE CRIME-FIGHTER, THOUGH POSSESSING THE POWER OF COUNTLESS SPIDERS, HOPE TO DEFEAT

"THE ENFORCERS!"

CAUTION! THINK TWICE BEFORE STARTING THIS MOVIE-LENGTH TALE! WE FEEL IT ONLY FAIR TO WARN YOU...ONCE YOU HAVE READ IT...ONCE YOU HAVE SAVORED THE THRILLS AND SURPRISES WHICH ONLY SPIDER-MAN CAN PROVIDE...YOU MAY FIND IT DIFFICULT TO EVER AGAIN BE SATISFIED BY LESSER MAGAZINES!

WRITTEN BY: SMILING STAN LEE
ILLUSTRATED BY: SWINGING STEVE DITKO
LETTERED BY: SPARKLING SAM ROSEN

OKAY! IF YOU'VE READ THIS FAR, WE FIGURE YOU'RE HOOKED! THERE'S NO TURNING BACK NOW! SO HOLD ON TO YOUR HATS... HERE GOES ONE OF THE MOST EXCITING SUPER-ADVENTURES YOU'VE EVER READ!

EVERYTHING'S ALL SET, BOSS!

GOOD! ***SPIDER-MAN*** WAS SEEN HEADING THIS WAY! HE SHOULD ARRIVE WITHIN SECONDS! START ***OPERATION HI-LIFT*** RIGHT NOW!

AT A SIGNAL FROM THE MYSTERIOUS MASKED MAN, A PROFESSIONAL BURGLAR CAUTIOUSLY CLIMBS TOWARD THE END OF A LONG FLAGPOLE ...

COME BACK WITH THOSE JEWELS! YOU HAVEN'T A ***CHANCE*** OUT THERE!

I WOULDN'T MAKE BOOK ON THAT IF I WERE YOU! THE ***BIG MAN*** PLANNED THIS CAPER, AND HE NEVER FAILS!

AT THAT MOMENT, THE WORLD'S MOST DRAMATIC SUPER-HERO WITNESSES THE STRANGE SCENE, AND THEN ...

IF THAT JOKER'S TRYING TO ESCAPE FROM THE POLICE, HE'S DOING IT THE ***HARD WAY!***

I'D BETTER GRAB HIM BEFORE HE FALLS AND...

HEY! WHAT'S GOING ***ON?!!***

IT ***WORKED!*** SPIDER-MAN NEVER SUSPECTED I HAD A ***CABLE*** WRAPPED AROUND ME!!

WE CAUGHT SPIDER-MAN FLAT-FOOTED, BOSS, JUST LIKE YOU ***SAID!***

NATURALLY! THAT'S WHY I'M ***THE BIG MAN!*** HAUL HIM IN... FAST!

DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT, BUT ***NOBODY*** MAKES A SAP OUT OF ***ME!***

I'LL SWING AROUND THIS FLAGPOLE ON MY WEB, TO GET UP SOME STEAM, AND THEN ...

I'LL GET HIM BEFORE HE CAN ESCAPE IN THAT HIDDEN WHIRLEY-BIRD!

BUT BEFORE SPIDER-MAN CAN ATTACH HIMSELF TO THE HOVERING HELICOPTER, AN UNEXPECTED BLAST OF BLINDING CHEMICAL FOAM MEETS HIM HEAD ON!

OOF! TH-THEY WERE ***PREPARED*** FOR MY CLUMSY ATTACK!

THE CHAGRINED CRUSADER BREAKS HIS FALL BY QUICKLY FASHIONING A CRUDE PARACHUTE OUT OF HIS AMAZING WEB, AS HE BITTERLY THINKS...

I SURE WON'T WIN ANY MEDALS FOR THE DUMB-HEAD WAY I MUFFED THAT JOB!

AND DOWN BELOW, THE WATCHING CROWD SEEMS TO *SHARE* SPIDER-MAN'S SENTIMENTS...

BOY! HE SURE GOOFED *THAT* ONE!

SOME SUPER-HERO *HE* IS! HE'S JUST A BIG CLOWN!

THE GUY ON THE FLAG-POLE GOT AWAY SCOT FREE!

AND, HIGH ABOVE, IN THE HELICOPTER...

WITHIN MINUTES, THE NEWS WILL BE OUT AND THE ENTIRE CITY WILL KNOW HOW WE MADE A FOOL OF SPIDER-MAN! NOW HEAD FOR THE HIDEOUT!

A SHORT TIME LATER, THE *BIG MAN* ENTERS A SMOKE-FILLED ROOM...

IT'S ABOUT *TIME* YOU GOT HERE!

WE'VE GOT OUR *OWN* GANGS TO TAKE CARE OF! WE'RE NOT *USED* TO WAITIN' FOR ANYONE!

SILENCE! I CALLED THIS MEETING TO INFORM YOU THAT *I'M* TAKING OVER ALL THE RACKETS IN THE CITY! FROM NOW ON, *THE BIG MAN* IS HEAD OF THE CRIME SYNDICATE!

I'M GOING TO RUN THIS LITTLE ENTERPRISE LIKE A BIG BUSINESS!

AS BOSS OF OUR ORGANIZATION, *I'LL* GIVE ALL THE ORDERS!

...AND MY *ENFORCERS* HERE WILL MAKE SURE THAT MY ORDERS ARE CARRIED OUT! ANY QUESTIONS?

LOOK, BIG MAN, YOU'RE NOT TALKING TO *KIDS!*

NOBODY IS GONNA TELL ME WHAT TO DO! I'M CUTTIN' OUT!

THAT GOES FOR *ME*, TOO!

I BEG TO DIFFER, GENTLEMEN! *ENFORCERS!* CHANGE THEIR MINDS!

FIRST, LET ME PRESENT *FANCY DAN!* THOUGH SMALL, HIS FOOTWORK IS SO FAST AND DAZZLING, THAT NO ONE CAN LAY A HAND ON HIM WHILE HE PERFORMS LITTLE ODD JOBS FOR ME... SUCH AS *THIS!*

IF YOU ARE WONDERING HOW SUCH A LITTLE MAN CAN BE SO DANGEROUS, YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING THAT FANCY DAN IS A MASTER OF JUDO, AND ENTITLED TO WEAR THE COVETED BLACK BELT!

NEXT, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET THE OX! THOUGH HE IS SLOW AND PONDEROUS, YOUR PUNY BLOWS HAVE NO EFFECT ON HIM!

AND ANYONE WHO DARES TO INCUR HIS WRATH RARELY REMAINS CONSCIOUS LONG ENOUGH TO WORRY ABOUT IT!

FINALLY, MY THIRD ENFORCER HAS HIS OWN METHOD OF DEALING WITH OUR ENEMIES! SHOW THEM, MONTANA!

IN THE HANDS OF AN EXPERT LIKE MONTANA, HIS LASSO RESEMBLES A LIVING THING, COMPLETELY OBEDIENT TO ITS MASTER'S WILL!

YOU ALL KNOW HOW I OUT-SMARTED SPIDER-MAN EARLIER TODAY! AND YOU HAVE SEEN WHAT HAPPENS TO ANYONE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO RESIST ME...OR MY ENFORCERS!

OUR MEETING IS NOW ADJOURNED! YOU WILL RECEIVE FURTHER ORDERS FROM ME VERY SOON! UNDER MY LEADERSHIP, AIDED BY MY ENFORCERS, WE HAVE A GLORIOUS FUTURE AHEAD OF US!

OUR SCENE NOW CHANGES TO THE FOREST HILLS HOSPITAL, WHERE PETER PARKER, ABOUT TO VISIT HIS AUNT MAY WHO IS RECOVERING FROM AN OPERATION, RUNS INTO TWO CLASSMATES...

FLASH! AND LIZ! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

WE HEARD ABOUT YOUR AUNT'S ILLNESS, PETER, AND CAME TO VISIT HER!

IT WAS LIZ'S IDEA, SONNY! SHE DRAGGED ME ALONG FOR COMPANY!

POOR FLASH! HE'S SO AFRAID I MIGHT FIND OUT HE'S REALLY GOT A HEART SOMEWHERE UNDER THAT THICK SKIN!

YOUR AUNT IS DOING AS WELL AS CAN BE EXPECTED, SON, AFTER HER OPERATION... BUT SHE DOES NEED A BLOOD TRANSFUSION! WHAT IS YOUR BLOOD TYPE?

A TRANSFUSION! I DON'T DARE GIVE MY BLOOD!

I GAINED MY SPIDER-STRENGTH BECAUSE OF THE BITE FROM A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER! IT AFFECTED MY BLOOD! BUT NO ONE MUST EVER KNOW!

I..I DON'T THINK I CAN DO IT, DOC!

PETER! IT'S YOUR OWN AUNT!

'S'MATTER? SCARED OF THE BIG BAD NEEDLE?

LIZ IS RIGHT! I MUST DO IT... NO MATTER WHAT! I CAN'T FAIL AUNT MAY!

LUCKY FOR ME MY BLOOD CHECKED OUT OKAY! THE TESTS DIDN'T REVEAL MY SUPER QUALITIES!

JUST LIE THERE AND RELAX, SON! THIS WILL GIVE YOUR AUNT THE STRENGTH SHE NEEDS!

IF MY STRENGTH COMES FROM MY BLOOD, WHICH WAS AFFECTED BY THE SPIDER'S BITE, HOW WILL THIS TRANSFUSION ***AFFECT*** ME? I'LL PROBABLY BE SOMEWHAT ***WEAKENED*** FOR A WHILE, UNTIL THE BLOOD CELLS CAN REBUILD THEMSELVES!

AND THEN...

THAT'S IT, PETER! TAKE IT EASY FOR A FEW DAYS UNTIL YOU GET BACK TO NORMAL!

SURE, DOC! I WILL!

HOPE I WON'T BE NEEDED AS ***SPIDER-MAN*** FOR A WHILE! OH WELL, THE MAIN THING IS THAT AUNT MAY IS GETTING BETTER!

FINALLY...

THANKS TO YOU, PETER DEAR, THE DOCTOR SAYS I CAN LEAVE HERE, SHORTLY!

THAT'S ***GREAT***, AUNT MAY! THE ABBOTTS, NEXT DOOR, WANT YOU TO JOIN THEM FOR A WEEK ON A TRIP TO FLORIDA! IT'LL BE JUST WHAT YOU NEED!

HOW WONDERFUL! THEY'RE SUCH WARM-HEARTED PEOPLE! BUT WHO'LL LOOK AFTER ***YOU***, PETER?

I'LL BE OKAY, AUNT MAY! I'LL KEEP BUSY WITH MY SCHOOL WORK AND MY CHORES!

THUS, A SHORT TIME LATER...

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, PETER, DEAR! WEAR YOUR RUBBERS IN THE RAIN, AND BE SURE TO DRESS WARM ENOUGH! I PUT YOUR NOSE DROPS IN THE MEDICINE CHEST, AND...

SURE, AUNT MAY! JUST GET LOTS OF SUN AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME!

WE'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF HER, PETE!

BUT, AS PETER'S AUNT HEADS SOUTH, A NEW CRIME WAVE BEGINS TO ERUPT IN THE CITY! UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE MYSTERIOUS ***BIG MAN***, A WELL-ORGANIZED AND POWERFUL NETWORK OF UNDERWORLD MOBS SEEM TO STRIKE EVERYWHERE AT ONCE!!

POOLING THEIR FINANCIAL RESOURCES, THE CITY'S CRIMINALS SPARE NO EXPENSE IN BATTLING LAW AND ORDER...

IT'S *UNBELIEVABLE!!* THEY'RE LIFTING THE ENTIRE MAIL CAR INTO THE AIR BY MEANS OF THREE HELICOPTERS!

NO ONE SEEMS TO KNOW WHERE, OR HOW, THEY'LL STRIKE NEXT!

AND ANY UNDERWORLD FIGURES WHO REFUSE TO ACCEPT THE LEADERSHIP OF THE BIG MAN ARE SOON SHOWN THE ERROR OF THEIR WAYS BY HIS POWERFUL TEAM OF ENFORCERS!

SO YOU DON'T WANNA TAKE ORDERS FROM THE BIG MAN, EH?

GET OUTTA THE WAY, FANCY DAN! I'LL HANDLE 'EM!

WAIT YOUR TURN, OX! OL' MONTANA HAS A FEW ROPE TRICKS TO TRY OUT!

THE *ENFORCERS!* STAY BACK! WE'LL JOIN YOU! WE'LL *JOIN!*

PATIENTLY, SPIDER-MAN ROAMS THE CITY BY NIGHT, SEARCHING FOR SOME CLUE, SOME TRACE OF THE BIG MAN'S TRUE IDENTITY... BUT HIS QUEST SEEMS HOPELESS...

THE POLICE ARE DOING A GREAT JOB... WORKING NIGHT AND DAY!

THAT'S THE FIFTH BUNCH OF MOBSTERS THEY'VE GRABBED TODAY... BUT THEY'RE ALL AFRAID TO *TALK!* THEY'RE TERRIFIED OF THE BIG MAN AND HIS ENFORCERS!

AND, THOUGH THERE ARE COUNTLESS EXAMPLES OF BRILLIANT POLICE WORK, FAR TOO MANY TO DESCRIBE ON THESE PAGES, IT SEEMS TO BE ONLY THE SMALL FRY WHO ARE CAPTURED, WHILE THE CRIME-SYNDICATE HIGHER-UPS REMAIN IN THE SHADOWS!

REACH, YOU TWO! WE'VE GOT YOU DEAD TO RIGHTS THIS TIME!

DON'T SHOOT, BLUECOAT! WE'LL GO PEACEFULLY!

SURE! SURE! 'SPECIALLY SINCE THE *BIG MAN* WILL BAIL US OUT BY MORNING!

AND THERE IS STILL ONE *OTHER* WHO ALSO ROAMS THE STREETS, SEARCHING ENDLESSLY FOR NEWS! IT IS J. JONAH JAMESON, THE HARD-HEADED PUBLISHER OF THE *DAILY BUGLE* AND *NOW MAGAZINE*...

ANOTHER ARREST, I SEE! BAH! IT'S A WASTE OF TIME BRINGING IN SUCH SMALL FISH! *SPIDER-MAN* IS THE ONE YOU SHOULD BE GOING AFTER! *HE* MUST BE MIXED UP IN ALL THIS SOMEHOW!

LOOK, MR. JAMESON... WHY DON'T YOU *FORGET* YOUR PERSONAL FEUD WITH SPIDER-MAN AND USE THE POWER OF YOUR PAPER TO HELP US NAB THE *BIG MAN?!* ASK YOUR READERS TO REPORT ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS!

NONSENSE! THERE *IS* NO BIG MAN! NOBODY'S EVER *SEEN* HIM AND TOLD ABOUT IT! SPIDER-MAN *INVENTED* SUCH A CHARACTER, TO THROW EVERYONE OFF THE TRACK!

IN HIS PLUSH OFFICE THE NEXT DAY, IN THE DAILY BUGLE BUILDING, A DETERMINED J. JONAH JAMESON SENDS FOR ONE OF HIS MOST CAPABLE COLUMNISTS...

FOSWELL, I WANT YOU TO WRITE A SERIES OF ARTICLES WHICH WILL ***PROVE*** THAT THE ***BIG MAN*** IS NONE OTHER THAN ***SPIDER-MAN*** HIMSELF!

BUT WE ***HAVEN'T*** ANY PROOF, MR. JAMESON! THE POLICE DON'T YET KNOW ***WHO*** HE IS!

AND IF YOU GO OUT ON A LIMB THE WAY YOU DID LAST MONTH WHEN YOU CLAIMED HE WAS ***ELECTRO,**** AND IF YOU TURN OUT WRONG ***AGAIN***, PEOPLE WILL LOSE CONFIDENCE IN OUR PAPER!

QUIET!! I'LL DO THE TALKING!

* SPIDER-MAN #9 FEB. "THE WRATH OF ELECTRO!"...ED.

I'M STILL RUNNING THIS PAPER, FOSWELL! NOW, DO AS I SAY, OR I'LL FIRE YOU AND SEE TO IT, THAT ***NO*** PAPER EVER HIRES YOU AGAIN!

I'LL ***DO*** IT, MR. JAMESON! I'VE GOTTEN INTO THE HABIT OF EATING THREE SQUARES A DAY!

I GUESS YOU ***HEARD*** THAT, BETTY! BOY, DOES ***HE*** HATE SPIDER-MAN!

I ***KNOW!*** I HAVE TO LISTEN TO HIM ALL DAY LONG! I'M GLAD IT'S QUITTING TIME NOW, FOSWELL!

AND, AS BETTY BRANT LEAVES THE BUGLE BUILDING AND WAITS OUT FRONT...

I WONDER IF PETER WILL BE PASSING BY AS HE SOMETIMES DOES?

THAT'S HER, YOU GUYS! THAT'S BETTY BRANT!

WELL, WHAT ARE WE ***WAITIN'*** FOR!?

YOU KNOW WHO WE ARE, SISTER! WHERE'S THE REST OF THE MONEY YOU OWE?

BUT I'VE ALREADY PAID OFF THE WHOLE LOAN!

SURE, BUT YOU FORGOT THE ***INTEREST!*** THE BIG MAN ***DOUBLED*** IT SINCE YESTERDAY!

NO! HE CAN'T DO THAT! IT ISN'T FAIR!

LADY, WHEN THE ***BIG MAN*** TOOK OVER EVERY RACKET IN TOWN... INCLUDING THE LOAN SHARK RACKET, HE DIDN'T DO IT FOR HIS ***HEALTH!*** NOW, I ***WARN*** YOU!

HEY! WHAT'S GOIN' ***ON*** THERE?

PETER! KEEP OUT OF THIS! GO AWAY! THEY'RE ***DANGEROUS!***

BETTY, YOU'RE ***SCARED!*** IF THEY'RE ***BOTHERING*** YOU...

WELL, WELL! SO THE GAL HAS A ***BOY FRIEND,*** EH? THAT'S REAL NICE.. FOR ***US!***

WE'RE TOO ***GENTLEMANLY*** TO THREATEN A FEMALE, BUT THE ***OX*** IS GONNA SHOW YOU WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO THAT SQUIRT IF YOU DON'T PAY UP!

LEAN ON 'IM A LITTLE, OX!

NO! NO! DON'T HURT HIM! I'LL GET THE MONEY SOMEHOW!

LUCKY FOR YOU SHE *SAID* THAT, SONNY!

IF ONLY I COULD TURN INTO *SPIDER-MAN* NOW!! BUT IT WOULD GIVE MY SECRET IDENTITY AWAY!

LET 'IM GO, OX!

AS THE ENFORCERS LEAVE, OX RELEASES PETER WITH A SHOVE THAT SENDS HIM SPRAWLING! THEN..

THOSE RATS! THEY'RE NOT GETTING *AWAY* WITH THAT!

NO, PETER! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING! YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR *THEM*! THEY'RE THE *ENFORCERS*!

THE ENFORCERS, EH? I'VE HEARD OF THEM! BUT HOW DID *YOU* GET INVOLVED?

I'M AFRAID TO TELL HIM THE TRUTH! IF HE KNOWS I FOOLISHLY BORROWED MONEY FROM A LOAN SHARK, HE'LL TRY TO HELP ME... AND HE'LL END UP GETTING HURT... OR *WORSE*!

I'M *NOT* INVOLVED, PETER! IT..IT WAS JUST A CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY... THAT'S ALL!

BETTY!! YOU'RE NOT TELLING ME THE TRUTH! WAIT!! WHY WON'T YOU LEVEL WITH ME? *BETTY!*

I CAN'T DO IT! I CAN'T LET THE DEAREST, MOST WONDERFUL BOY I'VE EVER KNOWN GET MIXED UP WITH THE *ENFORCERS* BECAUSE OF ME!

I MUST HAVE BEEN *WRONG* ABOUT HER! SHE *CAN'T* CARE FOR ME IF SHE WON'T CONFIDE IN ME!

DEEPLY HURT... UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND THE MOTIVES OF THE GIRL HE LOVES, PETER PARKER CHANGES TO *SPIDER-MAN* WITHIN SECONDS, AS HIS LEAN, POWERFUL MUSCLES ACHE FOR BATTLE!!

AS PETER PARKER, I WAS JUST A HELPLESS, CONFUSED SCHOOL KID!

BUT AS *SPIDER-MAN*, THINGS ARE GONNA BE A LOT *DIFFERENT*... AS SOON AS I TRACK DOWN THE *ENFORCERS*!

THERE'S THE PUNK WHO POINTED OUT BETTY TO THEM!

HOLD IT, YOU WEASEL! I WANT TO *TALK* TO YOU!

HUH?!

IF YOU *KNOW* THE ENFORCERS, YOU PROBABLY KNOW WHERE I CAN *FIND* THEM! NOW *TALK!*

NO! NO! THEY'D *KILL* ME! YOU DON'T *KNOW* THEM... THEY FEAR *NO ONE*, BECAUSE THE *BIG MAN* IS BEHIND THEM!

HE'S *TERRIFIED!* HE TREMBLED AT THE VERY MENTION OF THE NAME OF THE ENFORCERS! ONLY *ONE* THING TO DO... I'VE GOT TO MAKE HIM FEAR *SPIDER-MAN* EVEN *MORE!*

I'LL JUST BLINDFOLD YOU WITH SOME WEBBING, AND THEN...

MINUTES LATER, AFTER THE BLINDFOLD HAS BEEN REMOVED...

THIS WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD, SPIDER-MAN! I DON'T SCARE EASY, AND... HEY!

YOU ARE IN MY SPIDER'S WEB! NOW, WILL YOU TALK, OR WON'T YOU?

TH-THAT THING BEHIND YOU! D-DON'T LET IT COME ANY CLOSER... PLEASE...!!

HE DOESN'T KNOW I COULDN'T IF I WANTED TO! IT'S ONLY A DUMMY, MADE OF LEFTOVER WEBBING!

YOU CAN FIND THE ENFORCERS AT 15 OAK STREET... BUT KEEP AWAY FROM ME!!

EXACTLY FIVE SECONDS LATER...

NOW TO GIVE THE ENFORCERS A LITTLE WORKOUT... AND HOPE THEY'LL LEAD ME TO THE BIG MAN HIMSELF!

THIS IS THE PLACE! I'LL JUST... HEY! WHA...??

I'VE BEEN LASSOED... LIKE A RUNAWAY STEER! ...BEING PULLED INTO THAT WINDOW!

GOOD WORK, MONTANA! AND NOW, GET RID OF SPIDER-MAN ONCE AND FOR ALL! I CAN'T HAVE HIM TRYING TO INTERFERE WITH MY PLANS!

THE BIG MAN! AND THE ENFORCERS! I'VE GOT YOU ALL TOGETHER!

CORRECTION, MY FRIEND! IT IS WE WHO HAVE YOU! GET HIM, OX!

EVEN A REAL OX COULDN'T "GET" ME, SO NO PHONY ONE IS GONNA DO IT!

AND YOU CAN'T CATCH SPIDER-MAN TWICE WITH THE SAME ROPE TRICK, MISTER!

WHUMPH!!

A GUY *YOUR* SIZE MUST BE *NUTS* TO TRY TO TANGLE WITH *ME!*

HEY! I MISSED! NEVER SAW ANYONE MOVE SO *FAST!*

DON'T LET MY *SIZE* FOOL YOU, WISE-GUY! THEY DON'T CALL ME *FANCY DAN* FOR NOTHING!

AND THEY DON'T CALL ME *SPIDER-MAN* FOR NOTHING! FAST AS YOU ARE, MY SPIDER SENSE AND SPIDER REFLEXES WILL HELP ME TO NAIL YOU ... LIKE *THIS!*

UH-OH! A LASSO ..!ROUND MY WRIST!

PULLING ME OFF BALANCE ... CAN'T SHIFT MY WEIGHT IN TIME ... CAN'T DUCK THIS --- *OWW!*

I BEEN *WAITIN'* TO LAND A HAY-MAKER ON SPIDER-MAN!

BUT, WHAT MIGHT BE A "HAYMAKER" TO ANYONE ELSE, JUST ANGERS *SPIDER-MAN* ENOUGH TO SPUR HIM TO STILL MORE DAZZLING FEATS, SUCH AS...

LOOK OUT! HE FLIPPED BACKWARDS.. THRU THE ROPE!

HE'S STRONG ... AND SWIFT... BUT IT'S *STILL* THREE AGAINST ONE ... AND WHEN A GUY AS FAST AS *FANCY DAN* IS ALSO A *JUDO* EXPERT, WHAT CHANCE CAN SPIDER-MAN HAVE?

STOP FLAPPIN' YOUR LIPS AND KEEP *FIGHTIN'!* HE'S A LONG WAY FROM BEIN' LICKED YET!

YOU SAID A *MOUTHFUL,* CUDDLES!

UNGHH!

BUT, THERE'S A LIMIT TO *ANY-ONE'S* ENDURANCE ... EVEN ONE AS AMAZING AS SPIDER-MAN !!

GETTING WEAK! DOCTOR *TOLD* ME TO TAKE IT EASY FOR A WHILE! MY BODY HASN'T YET REPLENISHED THE SPIDER BLOOD CELLS WHICH I LOST IN TRANSFUSION!

HATE TO HAVE 'EM THINK I'M RUNNING OUT ON A FIGHT, BUT I'VE GOT TO CUT OUT WHILE I STILL *CAN!*

FIRST THING TO DO IS GET RID OF THE *LIGHT!*

WHERE'D HE *GO?*

WITH THE AID OF MY SPIDER-SENSE, IT'S A BREEZE FOR ME TO FIND MY WAY OUT IN THE DARK!

BUT I'D SURE LIKE TO KNOW WHERE THE *BIG MAN* DUCKED OUT TO DURING THE FIGHT!

MINUTES LATER, AS THE EXHAUSTED TEEN-AGER HIDES IN THE SHADOWS, CATCHING HIS BREATH, HE SEES...

IT'S *JONAH JAMESON!* WHAT'S *HE* DOING HERE? I WONDER...?!

THE BIG MAN WOULD *HAVE* TO BE SOME-ONE *SMART,* SOMEONE WITH *MONEY...* SOMEONE WHO KNOWS WHAT'S GOING ON! BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT JONAH HIMSELF...

PUZZLED, SPIDER-MAN CHANGES TO PETER PARKER, RETURNS HOME, AND MAKES A PHONE CALL...

BETTY SHOULD BE HOME BY NOW! I'LL CALL AND ASK HER IF *SHE* KNOWS WHY JONAH WOULD HAVE BEEN IN THAT NEIGHBORHOOD!

HMM, SHE'S NOT ANSWERING THE PHONE! HOPE NOTHING'S WRONG!

AND, AT THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN, IN BETTY BRANT'S APARTMENT...

IT MUST BE PETER! IF I SPEAK TO HIM, HE'LL QUESTION ME...AND SOONER OR LATER HE'LL GET INVOLVED WITH THE ENFORCERS!

BUT IF I *DON'T* ANSWER, HE'LL GET WORRIED AND COME OVER IN PERSON! I... I'D BETTER PICK UP THE PHONE!

BETTY! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? I WANT TO ASK YOU SOMETHING!

NO, PETER.. NOT NOW! I'LL SPEAK TO YOU TOMORROW! PLEASE!

I CAN'T LET HIM FALL INTO THE HANDS OF THE ENFORCERS BECAUSE OF ME!

THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO...I'VE GOT TO *LEAVE!* NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN!

THE NEXT DAY, IN JONAH JAMESON'S OFFICE...

I DON'T KNOW *WHERE* BETTY BRANT IS! SHE SAID SHE HAD TO GO OUT OF TOWN FOR A WHILE! BLAST THE LUCK! NOW I'VE GOT TO TRAIN A NEW SECRETARY!

YOU MEAN SHE JUST *LEFT??* WITH NO EXPLANATION??

LOOK, KID, I'VE GOT MY *OWN* PROBLEMS! I'VE STILL GOT A *NEWSPAPER* TO GET OUT!

HIS HEART'S AS COLD AS AN ICE CUBE! HE DOESN'T CARE ABOUT *ANY-ONE!*

AS FOR YOU, I DON'T KEEP YOU AROUND BECAUSE I LIKE YOUR *LOOKS!* YOU'RE PAID TO GET *PICTURES*... SO GO *GET* SOME! AND TELL FOSWELL I'M WAITING FOR HIS NEW COLUMN ON SPIDER-MAN!

SECONDS LATER, IN FREDERICK FOSWELL'S OFFICE...

MR. FOSWELL, YOU DON'T REALLY *BELIEVE* THE JAZZ YOU WRITE ABOUT SPIDER-MAN BEING THE *BIG MAN* DO YOU?

LOOK, SON, I WRITE WHAT JAMESON TELLS ME TO! *HE'S* THE BOSS HERE!

I'D SAY THAT *PETER RABBIT* WAS THE BIG MAN IF HE TOLD ME TO! YOU DON'T WORK ON *THIS* NEWS-PAPER AND ARGUE WITH OL' PRUNE FACE!

I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT... BUT IT SURE SEEMS UNFAIR!

WHY IS JAMESON SO ANXIOUS TO PUT SUSPICION ON *SPIDER-MAN!?* AND WHAT WAS *HE* DOING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD WHERE THE ENFORCERS WERE?? CAN J.J.J. *HIMSELF* BE LEADING A DOUBLE LIFE??

BETTY'S RUN OUT ON ME!.. FOR SOME REASON I CAN'T FIGURE OUT!

AND THE BIG MAN IS GETTING A TIGHTER GRIP ON ALL THE RACKETS IN THE CITY, BECAUSE THE AVERAGE MAN IS TOO SCARED OF THE *ENFORCERS* TO REPORT THEM TO THE POLICE, OR TO DEFY THEM!

AND HERE I SIT WONDERING WHAT TO DO NEXT! SOME HOT SHOT SUPER-HERO *I* AM!

AS *SPIDER-MAN*, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO SMASH THE CRIME SYNDICATE... IF I COULD FIND THEIR MAIN HEADQUARTERS, AND LEARN WHO THE *BIG MAN* REALLY IS!

NUTS! THEY'RE NOT GOING TO SEND *SPIDER-MAN* AN INVITATION TO COME AND VISIT THEM... BUT *PETER PARKER* MAY BE ABLE TO GET HIMSELF CAPTURED BY THEM! IT'S DANGEROUS... BUT IT'S THE ONLY WAY!

AND SO, AT SCHOOL NEXT DAY, PETE PUTS HIS PERIL-OUS PLAN INTO OPERATION...

YOU MEAN TO SAY THAT *YOU* FIGURED OUT WHO THE *BIG MAN* IS, WHEN NOBODY *ELSE* HAS ANY IDEA?!! YOU'RE *NUTS*, PARKER!

YEAH? WELL, YOU'LL SING A DIFFERENT TUNE WHEN I TELL MY THEORY TO THE POLICE AND GET A BIG FAT REWARD FOR HELPING TO NAB HIM!

MAYBE OL' BOOKWARM PARKER *DID* FIGURE OUT THE BIG MAN'S IDENTITY! HE'S A WHIZ ON PUZZLES AND STUFF LIKE THAT!

AWW, IF YOU ASK ME, PUNY PARKER IS JUST SHOWIN' OFF--LIKE HE ALWAYS TRIES TO DO!

PSSST! PETE--COME HERE! I WANNA *TALK* TO YOU!

FLASH! WHAT ARE YOU HIDIN' AROUND CORNERS FOR?

KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN AND LISTEN, YOU NUT! HAVEN'T YOU MORE SENSE THAN TO GO AROUND YAPPIN' HOW YOU'RE GONNA BLOW THE WHISTLE ON THE BIG MAN? YOUR LIFE WON'T BE WORTH A NICKLE IF THE *ENFORCERS* FIND OUT!

THANKS FOR THE WARNING, FELLA! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU CARED!

BUT FLASH'S WARNING HAS COME TOO LATE! FOR NEWS TRAVELS FAST--ESPECIALLY NEWS ABOUT THE *BIG MAN...*

SO! THAT KID PARKER KNOWS WHO THE *BIG MAN IS,* HUH? THE ENFORCERS OUGHTTA PAY *PLENTY* FOR THAT TIP!

AND, WITHIN MINUTES...

THAT'S RIGHT, BOSS! THIS KID PARKER IS TELLIN' EVERYONE HE KNOWS WHO YOU ARE! AND HE'S GOIN' TO THE POLICE WITH THE INFORMATION!

PETER PARKER? HOW DID *HE* FIND OUT?!

YOU MEAN YOU *KNOW* HIM, BOSS?

OF *COURSE* I KNOW HIM! DON'T STAND HERE ASKING FOOL QUESTIONS! GO *GET* HIM!

AND, AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS--

WE JUST GOT A CALL FROM *SPIDER-MAN!* SAYS WE SHOULD BE ON THE ALERT TONIGHT FOR A *SIGNAL* FROM HIM! HE'S GOING AFTER THE ENFORCERS!

BETTER ALERT ALL UNITS! THERE MUST BE SOMETHING COOKING!

POLIC

LATER, AS PETER WANDERS THROUGH THE LONELIEST PARTS OF THE CITY...

INTO THE CAR, BIG MOUTH! YOU'RE GOIN' FOR A LITTLE RIDE!

MY PLAN *WORKED!* I'VE JUST GOT TO HOPE THAT THEY TAKE ME TO THE BIG MAN BEFORE TRYING TO SILENCE ME!

SO YOU KNOW WHO THE *BIG MAN* IS, EH? WELL, WISE GUY--HE KNOWS *YOU*--AND HE WANTS TO HAVE A LITTLE *VISIT* WITH YOU!

THE BIG MAN *KNOWS* ME!! CAN IT BE THAT MY HUNCH WAS RIGHT--ABOUT J. JONAH JAMESON??

BUT IT *CAN'T* BE! I KNOW HE'S SELFISH--STINGY--AND HOT-TEMPERED! HE'S JEALOUS OF SPIDER-MAN--AND OF *ANYONE* WHO'S MORE GLAMOROUS THAN *HE* IS! BUT WHY SHOULD HE TURN TO *CRIME??*

FINALLY, THE ENFORCERS' CAR REACHES A LARGE INDOOR AUTO PARKING BUILDING...

HERE WE ARE, BRIGHT EYES! NO HARM SHOWING YOU OUR HEAD-QUARTERS -- IT'S THE LAST THING YOU'RE EVER GONNA SEE!

INSIDE, JUNIOR -- UNTIL THE *BIG MAN* SENDS FOR YOU!

WELL, THIS IS WHAT I *WANTED!* I JUST HOPE I DIDN'T BITE OFF A LOT MORE THAN I CAN CHEW!

ALONE IN THE ROOM, PETER STRIPS OFF HIS OUTER CLOTHES, AND THEN...

PETER PARKER COULD NEVER REACH THAT AIR VENT IN THE CEILING -- BUT FOR SPIDER-MAN, IT'LL BE A BREEZE!

COME ON, SPIDER STRENGTH!! JUST A LITTLE MORE *OOMPH* NOW! AHH, I'M GETTING IT!

AND, JUST ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL...

ALL THE RACKET BOSSES IN THE CITY ARE HERE FOR THIS WEEK'S NEW ORDERS, BOSS!

GOOD! THE POLICE ARE BEGINNING TO CATCH TOO MANY OF OUR UNDERLINGS -- SO I HAVE SOME PLANS FOR NEW PRECAUTIONS FOR US TO TAKE!

WOW! I'VE STUMBLED ONTO SOMETHING *BIG!* EVERY TOP MOBSTER IN THE CITY SEEMS TO BE DOWN THERE! TOO MANY FOR EVEN *SPIDER-MAN* TO HANDLE! I'D BETTER ALERT THE POLICE!

WHAT'S THE *MATTER* WITH ME! I WAS SO INTENT ON WHAT I SAW THAT I DIDN'T HEED THE SILENT TINGLE OF MY *SPIDER* SENSE!

BIG MAN! UP HERE -- I JUST CAUGHT A *SPY!* SPIDER-MAN!

AFTER HIM -- ALL OF YOU! HE MUST NOT ESCAPE! *GET HIM!*

DON'T BE SUCH AN EAGER BEAVER, BIG MAN! I'M NOT GOIN' ANYWHERE!

NO NEED TO RUSH, BOYS! TAKE YOUR TIME! I'LL SEE THAT YOU *ALL* GET WHAT'S COMING TO YOU!

WHAM! SOK!

TOO *MANY* GATHERING AROUND ME! THEY'LL PULL ME DOWN BY SHEER WEIGHT OF NUMBERS!

I'M GETTING *BORED*, GROUP! HOW ABOUT A CHANGE OF SCENE! HERE WE *GO!*

SAY! I'VE ALWAYS *WANTED* TO DRIVE ONE OF THESE SPORTY JOBS!!

HOLD IT, BOYS! I'M MAKIN' *THIS* TRIP SOLO!

THUNK!

BOP!

ATTA BOY, OX! GRAB THE BUMPER! NOW *LIFT!* HIGHER-- *GOOD!*

OH WELL-- I PREFER A FOUR-SPEED GEAR-BOX, *ANYWAY!*

THAT LITTLE MAN AIN'T GOIN' ANY-WHERE IF *I* CAN HELP IT! NOBODY'S STRONGER THAN THE *OX!*

NICE TRY, PLAYMATES! I'LL GIVE YOU AN "A" FOR EFFORT!

WISH I FELT AS CONFIDENT AS I'M TRYING TO SOUND! I'VE *GOT* TO FIND A WAY *OUT* OF THIS PLACE!

UH OH! THE BIG MAN'S TRYING TO SLOW ME DOWN BY ROLLING OIL DRUMS DOWN THE RAMP AT ME!

I *STOPPED* HIM FOR YOU, YOU CLUMSY OAFS! NOW *GET HIM!*

MUCH OBLIGED, BIG MAN! THESE DRUMS ARE JUST WHAT I *NEEDED!*

MY SPIDER ABILITY CAN KEEP ME BALANCED WELL ENOUGH TO "RIDE" ONE OF THEM RIGHT THRU YOUR BULLY BOYS!

YOUR OVERCONFIDENCE WILL BE YOUR UNDOING, SPIDER-MAN! *LASSO HIM*, MONTANA!

I HEAR YUH TALKIN', BOSS!

UH OH! I FORGOT ABOUT *HIM!*

I'VE GOT TO MOVE *FAST! THIS* OUGHTTA MAKE HIM DROP THAT LARIET!

HE FLIPPED IN MID-AIR-- SHOVING THAT DRUM TOWARDS ME! IT'S GONNA *HIT* ME!

SO FAR, SO GOOD! BUT I'VE GOT TO USE MY WEB FLUID *CAREFULLY!* THEY'RE NOT GONNA STOP TO GIVE ME TIME TO RELOAD!

THWAP!

EACH OF YOU GRAB A TIRE! *THROW IT!*

WHEW! THEY DON'T LET UP FOR A *SECOND!*

GIVE *ME* THOSE TIRES! I'LL SHOW YA HOW TO STOP THAT LITTLE RUNT!

BUT EVEN THE POWERFUL *OX* IS THWARTED BY SPIDER-MAN'S AMAZING AGILITY!

MY REFLEXES HELP ME TO DODGE THESE THINGS WITH *EASE!* AND WHEN I CAN'T GET *AROUND* THEM, I CAN ALWAYS ZIP *THRU* 'EM!

PRETTY TRICKY, MASKED MAN! BUT NOW LET'S SEE HOW GOOD YOU ARE ON AN OILY, GREASED FLOOR!!

ACCORDING TO THE LATEST SUPER-HERO MANUAL, THE WELL-TRAINED COSTUMED CRIME FIGHTER TURNS EVERY OBSTACLE INTO AN ADVANTAGE! SEE WHAT I MEAN?

HE'S *SLIDING* ON THE FLOOR--LIKE AN ICE-SKATER! *LOOK OUT!*

YOU CAN'T DODGE US *FOREVER!!* RUSH 'IM FROM ALL SIDES, YOU GUYS!

HE'S *RIGHT!* I *CAN'T* DODGE THEM FOREVER! BUT I'M SURE GONNA GO DOWN *TRYING!*

WE'VE GOT HIM *NOW!*

YOU CHERUBS ARE *MADE* FOR EACH OTHER-- SO FAR BE IT FROM *ME* TO KEEP YOU APART!

WHUMP!

BUT, BEFORE SPIDER-MAN CAN REGAIN HIS FOOTING, THE FAST-MOVING FANCY DAN STRIKES AGAIN WITH A SKILLFUL JUDO ATTACK!

OOFF!

I FIGURE *THEY* WORE YOU DOWN ENOUGH! NOW *I'LL* FINISH YOU OFF!

A JUDO-TRAINED LITTLE MAN'S ALWAYS MORE THAN A MATCH FOR A GUY TWICE HIS SIZE! EVEN WHEN THE GUY IS *SPIDER-MAN!*

REMEMBER THOSE WORDS, LITTLE FRIEND! YOU'RE GONNA START *REGRETTING* THEM REAL SOON!

I ADMIRE YOUR ENTHUSIASM, FANCY DAN -- BUT YOU SEEM TO HAVE FORGOTTEN HOW A SPIDER CAN STICK TO A WALL, AND THEN REVERSE HIMSELF LIKE *THIS!*

NOW YOU JUST STAY THERE AND REST UP FOR A WHILE, CHUM! YOU'VE HAD A BUSY LITTLE DAY!

SAY! DON'T YOU GUYS EVER TAKE A LUNCH BREAK OR ANYTHING?? YOU'VE GOT ME WORKING OVERTIME!

MY HEART'S POUNDING LIKE A TRIP-HAMMER! I'VE *GOT* TO GET SOME REST SOON! IF ONLY I CAN THINK OF A WAY TO SIGNAL THE *POLICE!!*

THEN, AS HE SKILLFULLY KEEPS ONE STEP AHEAD OF HIS PURSUERS...

I'VE *GOT* IT! I'LL REMOVE MY SPIDER-LIGHT SIGNAL FROM MY BELT...

AND THEN, I'LL TURN IT ON AND ATTACH IT TO THE TIP OF MY WEB-SHOOTER...

AND AWAAAAAY WE GO!!

BULLS EYE!!

THE SPIDER SIGNAL!! I'VE GOT TO CALL HEADQUARTERS!!

THEN, WITHIN THIRTY SECONDS, THE SOUND OF BLARING SIRENS FILLS THE NIGHT AIR IN THE SLUMBERING CITY...

IT'S THE ACME GARAGE! GIVE 'ER THE GAS!

WHEEEEEEEEEE

POLICE

WHILE WITHIN THE STRUCTURE, THE FATEFUL BATTLE CONTINUES...

KEEP AFTER HIM! HE'S TIRING! HE'S ONLY HUMAN! YOU'RE WEARING HIM DOWN!

RELAX, BIG MAN--THEY'RE DOIN' OKAY WITHOUT A CHEER-LEADER!

BUT SUDDENLY, AN EAR-PIERCING WAIL IS HEARD FROM OUTSIDE...

WHEEE

THE *POLICE!!*

AND NOT A MINUTE TOO SOON!

THEY WON'T GET HERE IN TIME TO SAVE *YOU!!* BLAST IT... IF ONLY YOU DIDN'T *MOVE* SO FAST!

NOW YOU'RE NOT GONNA BEGRUDGE ME MY FEW LITTLE TALENTS, ARE YOU??

OKAY NOW, BIG MAN... THE PARTY'S *OVER!*

I *COUNTED* THOSE SHOTS... AND YOUR GUN'S *EMPTY!* SO NOW IT'S MAN TO MAN!

SORRY, SPIDER-MAN! I DON'T FIGHT BY *YOUR* RULES! I KNOW WHEN TO MAKE MY EXIT!

NOW I *KNOW* I'M TIRED! ANY *OTHER* TIME I COULD HAVE CAUGHT HIM BEFORE HE GOT HALF-WAY TO THAT DOOR!

SLAM!!

BOY, LEAVE IT TO THE POLICE! IT DOESN'T TAKE *THEM* LONG TO GO INTO ACTION! THEY'VE ROUNDED UP THE ENFORCERS, AND ALL THE OTHER HOODS!

TOO BAD THE *BIG MAN* SLIPPED THRU MY FINGERS! BUT MAYBE I CAN *STILL* TRACK HIM DOWN!

IF HE'S THE ONE I *THINK* HE IS--IT'S GONNA BE A REAL *PLEASURE* TO BRING HIM IN!!

A SHORT TIME LATER, A HARRASSED J. JONAH JAMESON RUSHES INTO THE DAILY BUGLE BUILDING...

WHAT A MISERABLE WEEK THIS HAS BEEN! *EVERYTHING* IS GOING WRONG!!

I STILL HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO DEFINITELY *PROVE* THAT *SPIDER-MAN* IS THE MASKED LEADER OF THE CITY'S CRIME SYNDICATE! BUT I'VE GOT TO! I'M TOO FAR OUT ON A LIMB TO TURN BACK!

LOOK HOW *NERVOUS* HE IS! I *KNEW* I WAS RIGHT! HE'S WORRIED SICK ABOUT HIS CRIME RING BEING BROKEN UP!

WELL, I'LL GIVE HIM STILL MORE TO WORRY ABOUT, AND--UH OH! SOMEONE'S COMING!

MR. JAMESON...

WHAT IS IT?

I'VE GOT THE PROOFS OF THE NEW COLUMN ABOUT SPIDER-MAN! THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE TO SEE IT!

TEAR IT UP!! I NEED *MORE* THAN A COLUMN NOW! I NEED *PROOF* THAT SPIDER-MAN IS THE BIG MAN!

WHY? WHAT'S HAPPENED?

YOU FOOL! HAVEN'T YOU HEARD THE RADIO NEWS BULLETINS?? THE ENFORCERS HAVE BEEN ***CAPTURED!*** THE CRIME SYNDICATE IS BROKEN UP! ONLY THE ***BIG MAN*** HAS ESCAPED! AND THE POLICE ARE APT TO FIND ***HIM*** BEFORE TOO LONG!

WE'VE FOUND HIM ***ALREADY,*** JAMESON!

HUH?

THAT CLINCHES IT! THE HIGH AND MIGHTY J. JONAH JAMESON ***IS*** THE BIG MAN HIMSELF!

ALTHOUGH, IN A WAY, I FEEL SORRY! I NEVER THOUGHT HE WAS ***REALLY*** BAD!

DON'T TRY TO SNEAK ***OUT*** OF HERE, FOSWELL! WE HAVE THE PLACE SURROUNDED! YOU MIGHT AS WELL COME ALONG PEACEFULLY!

FOSWELL?

FREDERICK FOSWELL?! BUT I THOUGHT IT WAS JONAH?? HOW CAN LITTLE FOSWELL BE THE BIG MAN?

WE FOUND ALL THE EVIDENCE WE NEEDED IN YOUR ***CAR,*** WHICH WE SAW SPEEDING AWAY FROM THE GARAGE!

PRETTY CLEVER, FOSWELL--USING SPECIAL BUILT-UP SHOES--AN OVER-SIZED PADDED JACKET, AND A SMALL AMPLIFIER TO DISGUISE YOUR VOICE!

I'D HAVE GOTTEN AWAY WITH IT, ***TOO...*** IF NOT FOR SOME CRUMMY LUCK!

HE ***ADMITS*** IT! IT ***IS*** FOSWELL! I NEVER EVEN SUSPECTED...

SOME BIG BRAIN ***I*** AM! I NOT ONLY HAVE THE PROPORTIONATE ***STRENGTH*** OF A SPIDER--I'M JUST ABOUT AS ***DUMB,*** TOO!

AS FOR J. JONAH JAMESON--THAT ESTIMABLE CITIZEN JUST ***NEVER*** GIVES UP!

EVEN THOUGH ***YOU'RE*** THE BIG MAN, SPIDER-MAN ***WAS*** IN LEAGUE WITH YOU, WASN'T HE? ***ADMIT*** IT! IF HE WASN'T, I'LL BE A LAUGHING-STOCK ***AGAIN!***

BAH! I'LL WORRY ABOUT IT ALL THE WAY TO JAIL!

LATER, AFTER HIS OFFICE HAS EMPTIED OUT...

AM I ***ALWAYS*** TO BE THWARTED, EMBARRASSED, FRUSTRATED BY ***SPIDER-MAN!?***

I HATE THAT COSTUMED FREAK MORE THAN I'VE EVER HATED ANYONE BEFORE! I'LL NEVER BE CONTENTED WHILE HE'S FREE!

ALL MY LIFE I'VE BEEN INTERESTED IN ONLY ONE THING-- MAKING MONEY! AND YET, ***SPIDER-MAN*** RISKS HIS LIFE DAY AFTER DAY WITH NO THOUGHT OF REWARD! IF A MAN LIKE HIM IS GOOD--IS A HERO-- THEN WHAT AM ***I?!***

I CAN NEVER ***RESPECT*** MYSELF WHILE ***HE*** LIVES!

SPIDER-MAN REPRESENTS EVERYTHING THAT I'M ***NOT!*** HE'S BRAVE, POWERFUL AND UNSELFISH! THE TRUTH IS, I ***ENVY*** HIM! I, J. JONAH JAMESON--MILLIONAIRE, MAN OF THE WORLD, CIVIC LEADER--I'D GIVE EVERYTHING I OWN TO BE THE MAN THAT ***HE*** IS!

BUT I CAN ***NEVER*** CLIMB TO HIS LEVEL! SO ALL THAT REMAINS FOR ME IS--TO TRY TO TEAR HIM DOWN--BECAUSE, HEAVEN HELP ME--I'M ***JEALOUS*** OF HIM!

AND, AT THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN, AS SPIDER-MAN REACHES HIS HOME...

HERE'S A LETTER FROM AUNT MAY! SHE'S HAVING A FINE TIME IN FLORIDA!

BUT NOTHING FROM BETTY! NOT EVEN A CARD!

WHAT IF SHE ***NEVER*** GETS IN TOUCH WITH ME?? IF I NEVER HEAR FROM HER AGAIN??

IT MAY BE WHAT SHE WANTS! PERHAPS SHE DOESN'T CARE FOR ME--AND SHE WANTS TO MAKE A CLEAN BREAK!

NO! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! I ***WON'T!*** IT'S SOMETHING ELSE! SHE'S IN TROUBLE--WORRIED! IF ONLY I KNEW WHAT THE MATTER WAS! IF ONLY SHE'D LET ME ***HELP*** HER!!

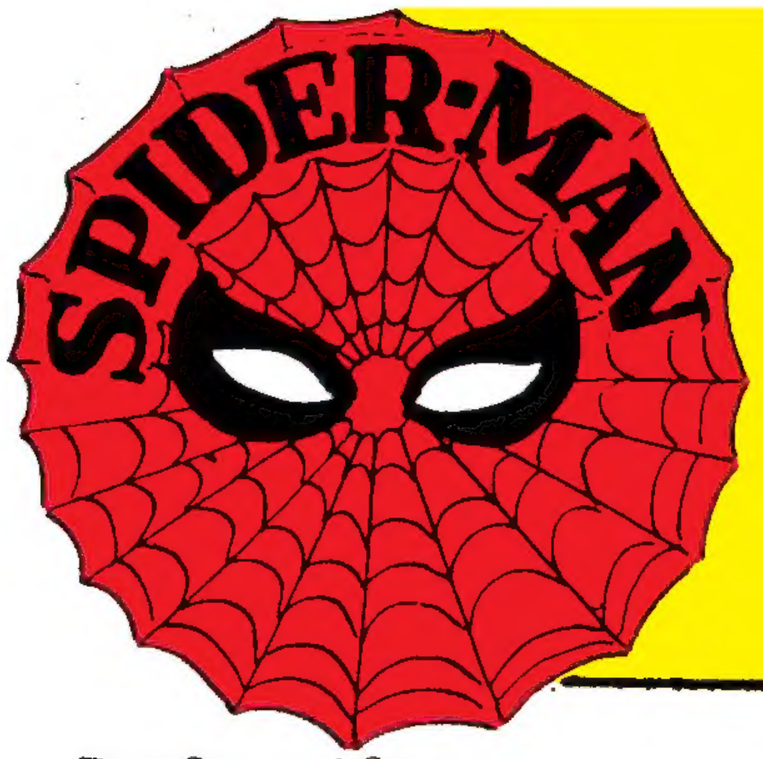
AT THAT MOMENT, IN A SMALL TOWN IN PENNSYLVANIA, BETTY BRANT SITS ALONE IN A LOCKED HOTEL ROOM, WEEPING SILENTLY TO HERSELF...

LIFE IS SO MEANINGLESS, SO EMPTY WITHOUT PETER! HE-HE'S ALL I HAD--ALL I EVER WANTED! AND YET--I CAN'T TURN TO HIM NOW!

I'VE GOT TO SEE THIS THRU ***ALONE!*** I CAN'T RISK THE LIFE OF THE BOY I LOVE! NO ONE ELSE CAN HELP ME--EXCEPT SOMEONE LIKE ***SPIDER-MAN...*** BUT WHAT CHANCE WOULD ***I*** EVER HAVE OF RECEIVING AID FROM ***HIM?!?!***

AND SO WE LEAVE OUR FRIENDS DANGLING IN A WEB FAR MORE POWERFUL THAN ANY WHICH ***SPIDER-MAN*** CAN WEAVE--THE MYSTERIOUS, DRAMATIC WEB OF ***FATE!*** NEXT ISSUE WE WILL MEET A GREAT NEW VILLAIN--FIND MORE SPECTACULAR THRILLS--AS ***SPIDER-MAN*** DISCOVERS THE STRANGE SECRET OF BETTY BRANT!

THE END ...FOR NOW!



SPIDER'S WEB

Please address your letters to:
THE SPIDER'S WEB
Third Floor
655 Madison Ave.
New York 21, N. Y.

Dear Stan and Steve,

Encore — a jillion encores for your marvelous mag! I can't pinpoint it, but SPIDER-MAN has class!! His originality deserves a toast, or a Medal of Honor; his costume is a feather in Mr. Ditko's hat; and his foes — well, when Spider-Man makes an enemy, it's a doozy! Oh, the laurels that will rest on your name for your contribution to juvenile literature!!

Mike Finley
1243 Park Ave.
Amherst, Ohio

Waddaya MEAN "juvenile literature", Mike?? Don't tell us KIDS have been reading these masterpieces!!

Dear Stan and Steve,

Nuts! So everybody's an art critic! Imagine a bunch of fans trying to tell people who have been in the business for yéars how to run a comic book. I'm fed up with it, and I dare some of you stateside guys and gals to write me and say I'm wrong. Well, now that I've got that off my chest, I'll tell you that this is one G.I. who likes SPIDER-MAN and will keep reading your 12¢ (underpriced) comics! By the way, Germany is great! Caught in your web —

PFC Dennis E. Northern
RA 17630800
HQ Co 3d Med. Tank. Bn.
35th. Armor, Ramberg, Germany
APO 139, New York, N. Y.

Thanks, soldier — but AT EASE for a minute! No one's telling us how to run our mags! We merely get a lot of helpful suggestions, and we love 'em! Remember, it takes knocks as well as boosts to keep an editor on his toes!

Dear Stan and Steve,

At the beginning of "Spider-Man vs. Doctor Doom" You state, "This may not be the greatest story ever written..." Well, you were right — it wasn't. In fact it was the poorest Spider-Man episode to date Steve Ditko's artwork was his worst to date In one panel he shows Spider-Man without his spider-emblem, in the next with it, but without his netting, and in the next without both. Also he has Dr. Doom's belt vanishing and appearing again in the next panel. Steve's version of Dr. Doom was so bad that Doc would have looked better without his mask. Please stop those ridiculous half Spider-Man, half Peter Parker pictures! You don't know how stupid they look One last matter, has Dr Doom got a financial interest in your comics? He turns up with monotonous regularity every month the only comics he hasn't appeared in so far are KID COLT and MILLIE THE MODEL He is one of the finest villains in comics today so please don't overdo him I hope you don't mind this critical letter but I know you will be pleased to know that I can't help handing my ninepence over for every comic you turn out

James Smith
9 Crealock St.
Kirkdale, Liverpool
Lancashire. England

WHAT!! You only pay ninepence in England for SPIDER-MAN?? One more complaint, Jimmy, and we're liable to cut off your supply! As far as Doc Doom having a financial interest in our mags, we sometimes think that beneath his mask he's really our BOSS!

Dear Stan and Steve,

I have been reading your MARVEL line ever since you started including super-heroes. All your efforts are good, but SPIDER-MAN is the best. Naturally, I've a run of Spider-Man since AMAZING ADULT FANTASY #15 and have enjoyed them all. SPIDER-MAN #6 started off with a fine cover. For one, I hate those ugly word balloons on most of your covers. I'm glad you didn't have one on this issue. The action and art was very good all through the story, but there is the poor paneling that dulls some of it. Back in the late forties, you were masters at "staggered panels"—wha' hoppen? If a panel is designed to fit the scene, it makes that particular panel much more exciting. Please try this out soon.

Don Foote
703 S. Perry St.
Johnstown, N. Y.

Good suggestion, Don, but staggered panels have never really appealed to us. We feel the interest and excitement should come from the drawing itself, rather than the shape of the panel's borders. Just as we're more interested in a painting than its frame. But, what do our BOSSES say? (Namely — YOU, the readers!)

Dear Stan and Steve,

One thing I like about Steve's art is—he really gives the fans (the beady-eyed little rascals) something to gawk at! What with Liz and Betty cavorting around in every issue! Aunt May is all right too, if you're about 80 and like that type—unfortunately I'm 21! Got something to say to Stan, too. Namely, about the AVENGERS! By George, it is pretty ridiculous when you stop to think of it! A Norse god cavorting around with a green-skinned brute, a giant that formerly was a pygmy, and a creep that walks around in an iron suit! Boy, he must be pretty hard up for company! But, you know what—I like it! Phooey on the Lizard! Let's have "Doc Ock" back!

John F. Lebar
305 No. Jordan St.
Allentown, Pa.

Look who's criticizing! A guy who doesn't even like Aunt May's type! Just wait till you're eighty, Johnny boy!

Dear Stan and Steve,

I think your greatest super-villain is... J. Jonah Jameson! Power?... power of the press! (but of course!)

David Nicholson
639 Drake
San Jose 25, Calif.

And just when we thought ol' J.J.J. was getting popular enough to become the HERO of a new series! Oh well, thanks for setting us straight, Dave!

Dear Stan and Steve,

You have improved since ish #5 of SPIDER-MAN! Last time you drew his costume incorrectly THIRTY TIMES! This time it was only sixteen! Let's see you make that number "0" in the next issue!

Kenny Chance
51 Hull Street
Brooklyn 33, N. Y.

And did you notice also, Ken, that we left a button off the coat of a man standing 'way in the background of a crowd scene in ish #3? We're just a team of incompetents!

CONTINUED...

Dear Stan and Steve,

I'm sure the rest of your readers and I feel the same way toward your personal message in SPIDER-MAN #6. Many of us are probably collectors or followers of many different magazines, but no successful magazine has ever given us the pleasure or experience which we get from seeing you and Steve match wits in creating the unusual Spider-Man adventures. Your reading of every letter, whether good or bad, I'm sure has gained a great impression on your readers. I know you enjoy creating Spider-Man's adventures because you show it not just in printing it but also in your fine outstanding art. I admit Peter Parker's growing success is partly dut to us, but our suggestions and criticisms are only words. It is your job to put our words to work which sometimes can be very difficult since we all have different opinions, but since you're doing a great job, you don't have to worry. So from our dazzled eyes and startled bodies, congratulations on what is truly the success story of the year—The AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

Doug Austin
3996 Casgrain Drive
Windsor, Ontario

To say we're flattered by the obviously sincere feeling in this letter from Canada would be a rank understatement. Our heartfelt thanks to you, Doug.

Dear Stan and Steve,

You really had something with the Lizard! He was the most worthy villain ever to match wits with the Spider-Man. The reason I liked him so much was because I liked his origin. Also, I liked the little sub-plot where Spider-Man had to save the good doctor who had turned into a lizard, yet had to rid the world of the Lizard. It is these sub-plots which really add to the story, so keep them up. In future issues I hope you won't bring back Dr. Doom, because I dislike the way Steve Ditko draws him. Not that he doesn't draw well . . . he's excellent! But he just can't copy Jack Kirby's style. (Jack Kirby can't copy Steve's work either—see the FF ANNUAL in which Spider-Man appears.) Well, anyway, Spider-Man remains the greatest super-hero since the Human Torch and/or Thor.

John Favareau
134 Convent Place
Yonkers, N. Y.

Muchas gracias, J.F., but did you ever hear of the FANTASTIC FOUR? We're told that they're kinda popular, too!

Dear Stan and Steve,

There are no words capable of telling how fabulous issue #6 was! (SPIDER-MAN, of course!) It was without a doubt the greatest comic I ever read! The artwork was magnificent, especially the cover. The story was very unusual and very entertaining. I am sure that you will have a difficult time topping AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #6. If you do, by some chance, happen to top #6, you will hear from me. I know this letter isn't very long but I think it states very clearly what I and a million other kids think about the truly AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

Richard Petroc
146 River Road
Hinckley, Ohio

Better have another talk with those "million kids", Dick! Although SPIDER-MAN is a top-selling mag. we haven't yet hit the million mark—so SOME of those kids aren't buying!!

SPIDER SCRATCHINGS

(We haven't room for enough complete letters, but here are a few samplings that might interest you!)

"In Sandman you have developed the greatest, most potentially everlasting villain in comic history."—Mike Randall, Atchison, Kansas . . . "The public ought to wake up to the fact that Spider-Man isn't a villain."—Ronnie Rigdon, Bossier City, La. . . . "Have a Spider-Man Annual."—Ric Klein, Twinsbury, Ohio . . . "Spider-Man is different in a field where it is hard not to be trite."—Katherine Philippe, Palatine, Ill. . . . "Don't give him a female counterpart or a fabulous hideout."—Frank Tugwell, Bastrop, La. . . . "Since Spider-Man #4 was so realistic, are you *sure* it wasn't a true story, fellas?"—Randy Montgomery, Niagara Falls, Ontario. (Ed. Note: *When* did we ever say these stories aren't true?!!) . . . "I think the reason for your success is that Spider-Man reaches inside to what would really happen if a person were given powers."—Steve Conner, Rome, Ga. . . . "Why not have Spider-Man join forces with Ant-Man and the Wasp to form an "Insects, Inc.?"—Charles Rubin, Rye, N. Y. . . .

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS SECTION:

- **Didja ever have a tiger by the tail? WE have! The votes are in on our "May We Drop These Letters Pages?" poll! We bow, as always, to your wishes! The overwhelming majority of letters demanded we *continue* this section, so that's that! Anyway, if Spidey can learn to climb walls, maybe we can learn to go without sleep!**
- **And now for our assorted Marvel musings . . .**
- **While we haven't worked out all the details of the plot yet, our next ish will shed further light on the strange secret of Betty Brant's past. It will also take Peter Parker (and his peck of pickled peppers) to a different town, and pit him against a different type of super villain. (You may think there are no new types of super-villains LEFT, but we may just surprise you!)**
- **By the way, we've received a ZILLION letters commenting on the fact that SGT. FURY AND HIS HOWLING COMMANDOS lost Junior Juniper in battle in ish #4! You may remember that we once promised to try to produce the most realistic mags of all — and judging by your reactions, you feel we're succeeding. So, many thanks for your letters — and wait till you see some of the future surprises we have in store for you at MARVEL, the House of Ideas!**
- **In our highly successful new mag, X-MEN, a group of evil mutants has been often mentioned but never seen — until NOW, that is! However, in ish #4, on sale Jan. 3rd, you will actually meet these uncanny characters and see how they operate! We suggest you try not to miss it!**
- **You'll notice we don't always refer to all our issues as "The Greatest Story You've Ever Seen!"— at least we TRY not to. We'd like to feel that when we DO recommend a special ish or story, you'll know we really mean it. And, with this is mind, we DO strongly suggest that you buy THE AVENGERS #4, on sale the 3rd of Jan.! It features the actual return of one of the greatest heroes of the Golden Age of Comics — Captain America, and it explains where he's been, and how he joins the Avengers! We feel it will be one of the most talked-about single issues of the year!**
- **In fact, it looks like the mags which go on sale Jan. 3rd are really going to make a hit! For example, the greatest title of all — FANTASTIC FOUR, features a sensational battle between The Hulk and The Thing, for those many readers who felt the fight scenes in their last encounter were too brief! This time we present what is probably the greatest, longest, most dramatic battle in comics mag history, between two of the most powerful foes of all! (Well, there goes our short-lived attempt at understatement!)**
- **We wanted to mention our other mags, but we're clean out of space. So we'll close by saying watch for the mags with the MARVEL seal in the upper left-hand corner! We pledge that each and every one of them tries to reward your loyalty by giving you the finest, and the most original stories and art we are capable of! So, until next ish, we at the Marvel bullpen wish you happy days and peaceful nights — and remember, whether you chose our titles, or some of the many fine magazines produced by our competitors, a comic magazine is still your best 12¢ entertainment value!**